

City of Cincinnati



Mayor John Cranley

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The Honorable Mike DeWine
Governor, State of Ohio
Riffe Center
77 S High St., 30th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Governor DeWine:

Governor,

It is with a heavy heart that I write to you today in the aftermath of the horrific mass shooting in Dayton and less than a year after Cincinnati's own mass shooting at Fountain Square. I remain grateful to the first responders in both of our cities for their heroism and quick action to prevent what could have been even greater losses of life. I was in contact with Mayor Whaley to offer support throughout yesterday as she handled the tragedy with professionalism and grace, and I know she appreciated your presence in its wake. I am heartened to see your comments that "everything is on the table" when it comes to combatting gun violence in Ohio. I am offering today to work hand in hand with you on crucial policies and laws that we need to pass in the State to ensure that real change happens.

I was encouraged by your comments earlier this year in support of extreme risk protection orders (ERPOs), commonly known as red flag laws. ERPOs allow family members and/or law enforcement to ask a judge to temporarily remove firearms from a person who is at an elevated risk of hurting themselves or others. When a person is in crisis and considering harming themselves or others, family members and law enforcement are often the first people to see the warning signs. ERPOs are designed to defuse these dangerous situations while also providing due process and a system of checks and balances through the judicial system. Further, ERPOs have also been proven to prevent homicides and suicides. This is a commonsense approach that has already implemented in seventeen states, including Indiana and we should pass laws to implement ERPOs in Ohio. I plan to lead a contingency of Mayors and Police Chiefs, along with Whitney Austin, one of Cincinnati's mass shooting survivors, to the statehouse in September to advocate for these laws and I hope you will join us in our efforts.

It is also disturbing to me that the murderer in Dayton was able to obtain a high-powered assault rifle that killed and injured so many people in a matter of seconds. Thank God for the Dayton Police Department's presence and quick action to eliminate the shooter or the casualties would have been far greater. There is absolutely no reason that anyone outside of the military or law enforcement should be allowed to own that type of weapon or to be able to purchase the types of tools to modify regular guns

into weapons of mass destruction. I encourage you to work on banning assault weapons and those type of modification tools in Ohio.

Lastly, I have the honor to serve as the Chair of the Mayors and Police Chiefs Task Force of the US Conference of Mayors. Recently, this task force met in Toledo where we discussed ways that mayors and other government leaders can encourage responsible gun behavior. One of the ways that we have decided to achieve this is to form a Smart Gun Buying Consortium with mayors from across the country. Government buys 40 percent of the guns in the U.S. but has not made full use of this market leverage to push the gun industry to improve its products and practices. Big gun companies and the NRA have resisted developing smart gun technology, so we intend to work with startups to do it ourselves. Our consortium will collectively purchase smart gun technology, such as gun locks that unlock with a fingerprint, and will have our police officers test these products to give the companies feedback to improve the products that are available to us. We will continue to do so in order to encourage increased development of better and more reliable smart gun products that can be used so that eventually kids cannot get their parents' weapons, so that thieves cannot use a stolen gun, or a gun cannot be turned against its owner. This is especially important because, in the past, Cincinnati has had officers murdered with their own weapons. I am certain that the State of Ohio spends a lot of money purchasing firearms and related products. I invite you to join our consortium.

As elected officials and leaders in our communities we cannot afford to sit on idly on the sidelines when it comes to preventing gun violence. I am proud to take on these efforts and I hope that we can stand together for these policy changes in Ohio.

Best,



John Cranley
Mayor
City of Cincinnati